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-Allegiances-

[image]

ThunderClan

Leader

Nutstar - mottled brown she-cat

Deputy

Breezesplash - dark brown and gray she-cat

Medicine Cat

Cricketthorn - creamy tom **Apprentice**, Fadingpaw

Warriors

Stonefall - speckled white she-cat **Apprentice**, Finchpaw

Sunivy - dusky brown she-cat

Graygrass - blue tom with one dead eye

Lionpetal - unusually brown tom

Raintalon - dark brown tabby tom **Apprentice,** Cherrypaw

Juniperrun - black and brown she-cat **Apprentice**, Talonpaw

Rustybreeze - dark brown tabby tom **Apprentice,** Owlpaw

Dawnthroat - pale ginger tom

Apprentices

Fadingpaw - light orange she-cat

Owlpaw - bright ginger she-cat

Talonpaw - dark black she-cat

Cherrypaw - light orange she-cat

Reedpaw - light orange tom

Finchpaw - dark brown tabby she-cat

Queens

Thrushdawn - light orange she-cat

Slatedawn - black she-cat

Flintflame - dark tortoiseshell she-cat with torn ears

Elders

Snakewater - bright ginger she-cat

Wolfwatcher - dark brown tom

Kits

Cloudykit - light orange she-cat

Sorrelkit - pale ginger she-cat

Twilightkit - light orange she-cat

Juniperkit - mottled brown she-cat

Honeykit - mottled brown she-cat

ShadowClan

Leader

Eelstar - white tom

Deputy

Palecloud - light gray tom

Medicine Cat

Moonspeck - smoky black tom

Warriors

Shortshade - blue she-cat with long, fluffy fur

Roseblaze - light golden tom **Apprentice**, Darkpaw

Tumblecry - light gray she-cat with a grumpy temper **Apprentice**, Clawpaw

Birchsong - red tabby she-cat **Apprentice**, Sedgepaw

Oddfall - white tom

Pouncestream - black tabby tom

Frostdapple - brown she-cat **Apprentice**, Onepaw

Puddlepath - mottled brown she-cat **Apprentice**, Heatherpaw

Apprentices

Sedgepaw - creamy brown tom

Darkpaw - gray and white tabby tom

Clawpaw - brown tabby she-cat

Heatherpaw - brown tabby she-cat

Onepaw - gray and white tabby she-cat

Queens

Coalgrass - brown she-cat with white forepaws

Lizardstorm - mottled brown she-cat

Russetcloud - speckled brown she-cat

Elders

Badgerflame - black and white tom

Dewpath - long-legged black tom with a long rippling pelt

Kits

Graykit - gray she-cat

Applekit - creamy brown tom

Squirrelkit - creamy brown tom

Thrushkit - silvery gray she-cat

WindClan

Leader

Rushstar - brown tom

Deputy

Deermask - mottled brown she-cat

Medicine Cat

Specklejay - swift brown tom **Apprentice**, Smokepaw

Warriors

Mumbletail - white and ginger she-cat with hazel eyes **Apprentice**, Dewpaw

Ratwind - speckled brown tom

Lichenstripe - red and white tom **Apprentice**, Foxpaw

Brightleap - bright ginger tom

Molefoot - light tortoiseshell tom

Buzzardbreeze - red tom **Apprentice**, Icepaw

Newtsnow - creamy brown she-cat

Cedarfeather - black and brown tom

Minnowtalon - dark tortoiseshell tom **Apprentice**, Coldpaw

Apprentices

Icepaw - red tabby tom

Smokepaw - brown tom

Foxpaw - a pretty calico she-cat

Coldpaw - brown tabby she-cat

Dewpaw - russet colored tom

Queens

Brownacorn - bright ginger she-cat

Leopardthicket - light orange she-cat

Whitesnow - Ragged white she-cat

Elders

None.

Kits

Wetkit - brown she-cat

Softkit - speckled brown she-cat

Gorsekit - brown tom

Mintkit - light orange she-cat

RiverClan

Leader

Rubblestar **-** speckled white tom

Deputy

Falconstream - blue-gray she-cat

Medicine Cat

Weedfur - gray and white she-cat with light splotches **Apprentice**, Cedarpaw

Warriors

Loudrapid - handsome blue tom with dark blue eyes **Apprentice**, Birchpaw

Dustyspeck - dark gray and white tom

Lostspring - white and ginger she-cat

Tansyspark - dark gray and white she-cat

Sprucewillow - mottled brown tom

Breezewhisker - blue tom **Apprentice**, Heavypaw

Rustjaw - light orange tom

Hollyfur - brown she-cat with emerald eyes

Yellowfur - russet colored she-cat

Weaselthicket - red and white she-cat **Apprentice**, Rapidpaw

Spiderbird - creamy brown she-cat with hazel eyes

Apprentices

Heavypaw - white she-cat

Birchpaw - blue-gray tabby she-cat

Rapidpaw - blue-gray she-cat

Cedarpaw - brown tom

Queens

Brindleheather - pure white she-cat

Maggotfeather - dark brown tabby she-cat

Mapleeye - dark gray and white she-cat with black stripes

Elders

Leopardrapid - bright ginger she-cat

Kits

Falconkit - dusky brown she-cat

Furzekit - bluish-gray tom

Quietkit - dark gray and white tom

Larchkit - pure white she-cat

Cats Outside Clans

Lion - dark tortoiseshell tom with huge teeth

Ferretgaze - dark black she-cat

Atticus - Pure black tom

-Ambush-

It was a cold night. A young kit walked out of the nursery, yawned, and headed towards the fresh-kill pile.

"Hello, Thrushkit," a familiar voice said. It was Eelstar, the ShadowClan leader.

"Hello, Eelstar. How are you doing?" the young she-kit asked.

Earlier, Eelstar had a case of white cough. Whitecough was a serious sickness that was common in Leaf-bare.

"I'm fine, Thrushkit. No need to worry."

"Are you sure?"

"Yes. I am perfectly fine. Now, run along. Your mother is probably worried."

"Yes, Eelstar."

As the young kit was padding towards the nursery, slowing down every few steps to look behind her, she wondered.

What was Eelstar doing out so late? Was he going out to hunt? No, it was too late for that.

Her thoughts came to an end as she walked into the nursery. She saw her sister, Graykit, awake.

"Hi, Thrushkit! What are you doing up so late?" her sister asked.

"I was going to ask you the same question."

"I heard you and Eelstar talking. You know you guys almost woke up mother, right?"

"No. I didn't think that we were being that loud."

"Well, you were."

"Sorry. I-"

"What are you two doing up?" a soft, gentle voice asked. It was their mother, Russetcloud.

"We were just talking, mother," Thrushkit said.

"Well, stop talking. You can talk in the morning," she said.

"Yes, mother."

Thrushkit circled her patch of moss, yawned, got down on her belly with her paws underneath, and fell asleep.

****

"Thrushkit. Thrushkit, wake up. Thrushkit!" a voice yelled.

"Huh? W-what?" she asked, half-asleep.

"Thrushkit, don't you remember? You're going to practice hunting with me," the voice said again. It was the ShadowClan deputy, and her father, Palecloud.

"Hi, dad," she said.

"Hi. Now, hurry up. Go get some fresh-kill and meet me to meet at the medicine den.

She padded over to the fresh-kill pile and took a skinny mouse. She was tempted to eat the fat squirrel, but, if she ate too much, she wouldn't be able to catch anything.

She ate the mouse as fast as she could and was walking towards the medicine den.

When she got to the medicine den she walked towards her father.

"So, are you ready?" the deputy asked.

"Yep!"

"Alright then. Since you're just a kit, we will practice just outside of the camp where the apprentices' train, don't worry, though. Sometimes kits come here with their kin to practice when their almost apprentices." He soothed.

"Okay," Thrushkit said. The fluffy kit shaking.

They walked through the forest, stopping every few minutes to sniff the air. They stopped at a sun-lit clearing.

"Okay then, off you go," her father said.

"What?"

"Don't you want to go hunting by yourself?"

"No! It's dangerous out there!"

"Calm down. Look, when you become an apprentice, you will have hunt by yourself."

"But I'm not an apprentice, I'm a kit!"

"Just relax. Go hunt, if you need me just call my name."

"Okay."

She padded away from her father, nervously. She stopped at a big oak tree. She sniffed the air around her until she found a scent.

Mouse, she thought. She was hoping to find a rabbit or a squirrel, but a mouse will do.

She got low on her belly. She stalked the mouse through the tall grass. She pounced, but the mouse ran away. She fell onto the hard ground. The kit stood up. She thought.

What went wrong? Did I stalk it too loud? Did it smell me?

While she was still thinking, she smelled a scent. At first, she couldn't tell who it was, but then she realized what it was. She had

heard stories of cats who ate fish and swam in rivers. She smelt fish.

Why would RiverClan be here? Palecloud said it was safe.

She ran under some brush. Thorns pierced her pelt, she knew something wasn't right.

She peeked through the bush and saw a small she-cat, almost the size of Palecloud, but looked a lot younger.

It must be an apprentice!

Thrushkit hesitated but then...

She let out a shrieking yowl. "RiverClan!" She cried. "Palecloud! Help!"

Unfortunately, this gave away her spot. The small blue-gray tabby she-cat's head whipped around, and she bared her teeth. "Who's there?!" She snapped.

Palecloud came rushing over, his light gray pelt bristling. He tasted the air and saw the RiverClan apprentice.

"What are you doing here?!" He hissed.

The she-cat growled and soon, a group of other RiverClan cats darted out of nowhere, ambushing the two ShadowClan cats.

"You can't hurt a kit!" Palecloud snapped. He recognized these cats. They were Lostspring, Dustyspeck, Sprucewillow, Loudrapid, and Birchpaw.

Lostspring smirked. "But we can hurt you," She leaped onto the tom, biting and scratching him. Thrushkit didn't want to leave, but she needed to warn her Clan.

Thrushkit ran back to camp, tired and out of breath, she wheezed. "RiverClan...ambush...attack....Palecloud..."

-An Amazing Warrior-

"What!" Eelstar yelled. "Where?"

Thrushkit did her best to get the sentence out. "Where... the... apprentices train."

She hardly finished speaking before she fell to the ground. She tried to get up, but her still-growing body would not let her.

"Thrushkit!" Russetcloud yowled. "Thrushkit, are you okay? Someone get Moonspeck!"

Thrushkit saw Moonspeck, the medicine cat, run over to her. The black tom stared down at her. He inspected her for any bites or scratches. Thrushkit assumed he didn't find anything but thorns, because he just nodded to Russetcloud and asked her, "Thrushkit, are you feeling any serious pains?"

The young kit shook her head and said, "No, but I do feel like I could sleep for a moon."

He turned to Russetcloud and said, "It's natural. She ran a long distance."

"But, will she be okay?"

"Yes, but she needs to rest."

When Moonspeck finished speaking to her mother, Thrushkit saw Eelstar run out of camp with three warriors, Roseblaze, Birchsong, and Oddfall.

Thrushkit didn't even realize that Moonspeck was trying to get her attention until he poked her. "Thrushkit, do you think you could walk to your nest?"

"What? Oh, yeah. I should be fine," she said, still staring at the

camp's entrance.

She started walking towards her den until she remembered something.

Oh no! Dad is still out there!

She quickly turned around and ran towards the entrance. She ran past the big oak trees that led the way to the carrion place. She ran and ran until she saw the battle. She looked all over, but could not find her father.

Oh, where is he? I hope he's alright.

When she looked again she saw the three RiverClan cats runoff. She was right behind Eelstar when he turned around. Quickly, she ran off and hid in another thorn bush.

She saw the four ShadowClan cats gather around in a circle with their heads down. Thrushkit moved closer to the cats until she says something lying on the ground. A first she couldn't make it out, but then she knew. It was Palecloud.

She rushed over to her father. "Dad! Your oka..."

Her voice trailed off as she saw her father's body limp on the ground. She stared at her father until she realized why he was limp. Her father was dead.

Eelstar looked at Palecloud, blankly. "RiverClan got here before we could..." He said, flatly.

Right now, Thrushkit wanted to run to Russetcloud and ask her if she was dreaming.

But she knew the answer.

Oddfall shook his head. "He was an amazing warrior..." The tom looked at Thrushkit. "I think we should get back to camp. Eelstar, may I take her?" He asked.

Eelstar nodded, and Oddfall stocked away, Thrushkit close behind.

"Did you see the RiverClan cats kill him?" Thrushkit asked, the fluffy kit still shaking.

Oddfall nudged her. "We saw them right before they left, they gave him one bite to the neck and..." Oddfall couldn't bare to say anymore, Palecloud had been his best friend, and Oddfall was Russetcloud's brother, meaning he had lost kin.

Thrushkit wanted to stop walking and just sleep, she wanted to wake up in the morning and Palecloud be there, greeting her like he had every day before that.

But she knew she had to sit vigil for her father.

Thrushkit didn't want to stay up all night, staring at him. It would remind her of what happened, but it would be disrespectful not to.

After a few minutes of walking, they arrived at the camp. Thrushkit sniffled, she told herself she'd be okay, but she knew that wasn't true, either.

Thrushkit saw the speckled brown she-cat. Russetcloud.

Thrushkit ran up to her, pushing her head into her fluffy chest. She looked into Russetcloud's amber eyes, that looked just like hers. She could tell Russetcloud knew just by looking at her kit.

Graykit padded up to her sister. "Hey, Thrushkit! Is Palecloud okay?" She said, in her always bubbly way of saying things.

Russetcloud gave Graykit a look that said, *no, my sweet kit.* Graykit nudged herself right beside Thrushkit, knowing how her sister loved being near other cats when she was sad. Darkpaw and Onepaw walked up as well, they had been Russetcloud and Palecloud's first ever litter, also mourning the loss of their father, and deputy. Onepaw looked at Thrushkit and Graykit. "I think you might be hungry," She whispered, and walked away, bringing back a big, juicy squirrel for Graykit and Thrushkit.

"Thanks..." Thrushkit managed to say to her sister. She took a mouthful of the squirrel and at it quickly.

She saw Birchsong, Roseblaze, and Eelstar carrying Palecloud to the middle of the camp, setting him down. Thrushkit padded up to him, laying beside his lifeless body.

Eelstar stood on Shadowrock. "All cats old enough to catch prey, meet under Shadowrock for a Clan meeting!" He yowled.

Cats gathered under Shadowrock, most of them knew what was happening.

"Palecloud has gone to walk with StarClan." he continued. "I say these words before StarClan, that the spirit of Palecloud may hear and approve my choice, the new deputy of ShadowClan is Oddfall."

-Vigil and Guest-

It was a long night for Thrushkit. She had to sit vigil for Palecloud, her now-dead father.

Her father was killed by RiverClan warriors. He fought back hard, but he had lost.

It was my fault, she told herself. *I should have fought that apprentice myself.*

"Hi," a voice said. It was Onepaw, her big sister.

"Hi, Onepaw," she said, flatly.

"How's dad?" the apprentice asked.

"What do you think?" she growled.

The apprentice took a step back. This wasn't the Thrushkit she knew. Onepaw wanted the nice Thrushkit.

Onepaw was trying to find the right words. "Look, I know that you two were close, but tha-"

"Of course we were close!" the kit interrupted. "He was my father."

"He was my father, too! But do you see me growling at everyone who tries to comfort me?"

"That's because you don't honor him!"

Onepaw gasped. Thrushkit knew that she honored her father. *Everybody* honored Palecloud.

Thrushkit wished she hadn't said that. "Onepaw, you know I didn't mean tha-"

Onepaw walked away, her head down.

Thrushkit watched the gray and white tabby she-cat stock away. She looked at the lifeless, light gray body of Palecloud. She needed him right now, but she couldn't have him.

She sighed. Every cat surrounded Palecloud. Russetcloud, Darkpaw, Graykit, and Thrushkit were closest.

Still no Onepaw.

Onepaw must've gone out of the camp to hunt or something...I should apologize... Thrushkit thought. She stood up, but as she remembered she was sitting vigil, she sat back down.

Someone needed to honor him.

After a while, Thrushkit got tired but kept herself awake. The other cats had closed their eyes and nuzzled close to him, still awake. Except for one cat.

Eelstar.

Thrushkit saw Eelstar walking out of his den, padding out of camp. He glanced around as if he wanted no-cat to see him.

Then he locked his eyes with Thrushkit's.

The bright yellow eyes were set on her. He lashed his tail. "Stay quiet," he snapped. "And maybe I'll let you live another day."

Thrushkit's eyes widened in terror. Why could she not speak of him walking out of camp?

Thrushkit tried to shake the thought away.

And then she started seeing it.

Multiple bright yellow eyes in the darkness stared at her, her ears were ringing as she heard the bloodcurdling shriek of cats.

But what she was seeing and hearing wasn't happening.

It couldn't have been.

Because when she blinked, the eyes were gone. And the only sound was the soft breeze.

She looked at Palecloud. His fluffy light gray fur was still, and his normally green eyes were closed.

****

It was morning, and Thrushkit wanted to sleep in.

But she *had* to see Eelstar.

She padded to his den, knowing her father would have disapproved of going right in, she meowed. "Eelstar, are you here?"

No answer.

She asked again.

No answer.

She padded in the den. Nothing.

He wasn't there.

Thrushkit hesitated to leave but did so she wouldn't get caught. The silvery-gray tabby she-cat's fur was fluffed up, and she went into the nursery.

She looked at Squirrelkit and Applekit. They were playing 'Clans' with Graykit.

How can they just play in a time like this?! Thrushkit thought to herself.

Graykit looked over at her. Her soft green eyes were filled with a symphony for her sister.

"Thrushkit, would you like to play Clans with us? Applekit's leader of ShadowClan, Squirrelkit's leader of WindClan, and I'm the leader

of ThunderClan! You could be the leader of RiverClan..."

"I don't want to be the leader of stupid *RiverClan!*" She snapped like it was obvious.

"Well," Graykit whispered. "You could be my deputy...if you want..." She offered.

Thrushkit bared her teeth. "This game's stupid, Graykit! We'll be apprentices soon! Stop with the kitten games!"

Graykit sniffled, her soft green eyes were now sad. Her ears flattened to her head, and she exchanged glances with Applekit and Squirrelkit. The two 3 moon old kits hurried to their sleeping mother, Coalgrass.

Graykit looked at her sister. "You upset them," She spat.

Thrushkit was surprised Graykit was angry. Graykit was *never* angry.

"Not my fault. They shouldn't be so sensitive," she said, her voice emotionless.

Graykit stepped back in disgust. "They're only three moons old, Thrushkit! They're only sensitive because that's how kits their age *are*." She growled.

Graykit shook her head and padded to the fresh-kill pile, grabbing a mouse to eat.

"Well, that was interesting,"

"Huh? Who's there?!" Thrushkit's fur bristled.

"Hey, don't worry. Just a regular ShadowClan apprentice," he purred.

Thrushkit looked at the entrance of the den and saw a creamy brown tabby tom. She had never talked to him before, but she'd seen him with his mentor, Birchsong.

"I'm Sedgepaw," He meowed.

Thrushkit narrowed her eyes. "Were you listening to my conversation?" She asked.

"Not *listening* just think of it as...briefly passing by and overhearing your conversation.

She looked at him. She knew Sedgepaw was only 7 moons old. He had been brought into the Clan from WindClan a moon ago.

Sedgepaw purred, and then stopped. "I heard about your father, I'm very sorry," He told her.

"Yeah, well I'm sure Oddfall will make a fine deputy," She said, quietly.

-Face First-

She walked out of the den. She wondered where Eelstar might have gone. Suddenly, she remembered last night.

Last night she saw Eelstar walking out of camp. It looked like he didn't want anybody to know where he had gone. She remembered his angry words. *Stay quiet, and I might let you live another day.* And then the yellow eyes started watching her.

"Hi, Thrushkit," a voice said. It was the oldest of Russetcloud's kits, Darkpaw.

"Hi, Darkpaw," she said.

"What are you doing here?" he asked, tilting his head.

"Just wanted to talk to Eelstar."

"Haven't you heard? He was attacked by rouges."

Thrushkit didn't know that he was attacked last night.

That explains all of the screechings, she thought. *But that doesn't explain why Eelstar said his cold words.*

"Oh, what happened between you and Onepaw? I see that you two haven't been talking lately." the apprentice told her.

"We just had a little fight, that's all."

"Well, could you two please make up? I hate seeing you two upset."

"I'm not sure if I can. She isn't talking to me."

"She doesn't have to talk to you, but you need to talk to her."

"Alright. Where is she?"

"She's sitting next to dad."

Thrushkit turned her head. She saw Onepaw, Onepaw's eyes were closed, and her head dipped towards the pile of rocks that covered their father.

Then, before Thrushkit could apologize, Eelstar started to speak.

"All cats old enough to catch their own prey, meet under Shadowrock for a Clan meeting."

Cats gathered around the rock. "As you know, ShadowClan needs more warriors. So, we will be making kits apprentices today."

Yowls of disagreement and frustration came from the Clan.

"But, we will only take two for now," He meowed. "Graykit, step forward."

"Graykit, you have almost reached the age of six moons, and you are ready to become an apprentice. From this moment on, until you receive your warrior name, you shall be known as Graypaw. Your mentor will be Shortshade,"

"Shortshade, you are ready to take on an apprentice. You have had excellent training from me, and have shown yourself to be fast and patient, and I expect you to pass on all you know to Graypaw."

Shortshade touched noses with Graypaw.

"Thrushkit, you have almost reached the age of six moons, and you are ready to become an apprentice. From this moment on, until you receive your warrior name, you shall be known as Thrushpaw. Your mentor will be Pouncestream,"

"Pouncestream, you are ready to take on an apprentice. You have had excellent training from Badgerflame and have shown yourself to be strong and confident, and I expect you to pass on all you know to Thrushpaw."

Pouncestream stocked over to Thrushpaw and touched noses.

"Thrushpaw! Graypaw! Thrushpaw! Graypaw!" They chanted. Sedgepaw seemed to be cheering quite loud.

Thrushpaw stalked over to Onepaw. Onepaw looks up at her.

"So, you are an apprentice?" Onepaw asked blankly.

"Yeah, my mentor is Pouncestream."

"I didn't think Eelstar would defy StarClan."

"All he did was make us apprentices. He had to."

"No, he didn't. He could have waited a little longer."

"Look, I'm sorry about what I said."

"I was never mad at you."

"But, you didn't even talk to me."

"Because I didn't think you wanted to listen." She replied.

Thrushpaw looked at her paws. The gray tabby she-cat shook her head. "You're smart," She said, giving her a sad smile.

Onepaw nodded, "I get that a lot." She joked.

****

Thrushpaw had rested with Graypaw in the apprentices' den. The two hadn't talked very much at all.

Thrushpaw had been talking to Sedgepaw about the gathering that was happening the next day, and Graypaw was talking to Heatherpaw, a brown tabby she-cat that was 8 moons old. Every cat was happy.

Even if Graypaw and Thrushpaw weren't talking.

Pouncestream padded in the apprentice's den with a smile. "So,

Thrushpaw, are you ready for your first training session?"

"Sure! What are we doing?" the apprentice asked.

"Showing you territory," he meowed.

The two cats walked for a long time until they stopped near the Gathering Island.

The Island had stepping stones in the water leading to it, where four towering stones laid in the middle of the island.

"Can we go and see it?" Thrushpaw asked.

Pouncestream shook his head. "No, there's a gathering tomorrow and you can go then.

"Besides, I'm no medicine cat. If you fall in and hit your head I can't help you."

"I won't fall in! I promise!" She pleaded.

"No." He said, more sternly this time.

"Now that you've seen the whole territory, you can practice hunting. Show me your hunting crouch." He meowed.

Thrushpaw bent down, her tail stuck up in the air.

"Now, lay your tail to the ground without touching the grass. Can you smell anything?" He asked her.

Thrushpaw tasted the air. She smelt frog. She stalked up to the pine green blob and pounced, landing straight on her face.

-Hunt Together-

The two cats walked back to camp. Pouncestream padded towards the fresh-kill pile while Thrushpaw headed towards her den.

Graypaw looked as if she was asleep, but when Thrushpaw walked in she quickly sat up. "So, how did it go?"

"How did what go?"

"Your training, obviously."

"Oh, that? It went well."

"I wouldn't call falling flat on your face well," Pouncestream said as he padded towards the warriors' den.

"Did you actually fall on your face?" her sister asked.

"Yeah, so what? I still caught some prey! Sure, my face killed it..."

"Okay. Jeesh. You don't need to get all defensive."

Thrushpaw's head dropped. "I'm sorry. It's just that it's so embarrassing."

"It's okay. I get it. If I fell flat on the face - which I probably never will - I would feel the same way."

"Thanks, I guess."

Thrushpaw walked out of the den. She saw Sedgepaw. Suddenly she felt warm and tingly inside. She had been feeling this way for a while. It started a few days before she became an apprentice.

She saw that he was coming over towards her. "Thrushpaw! Thrushpaw, wait!"

He quickened his pace. He ran and ran until he ran into her. He

quickly got back on his feet. "Are you okay?" he asked her.

She got on her feet. She looked at the tom and stared.

Stop staring, you mouse-brain! You look like an idiot!

"Uh, me? Oh, I'm fine," she replied. This was, in fact, a lie. She never felt worse. Mostly because of the fall, but the rest was because of herself.

"Anyway, I'm going hunting. Do you want to come?" the brown tom asked.

"Don't you have training?"

"I did, Birchsong is sleeping."

"Oh. Well, I guess I could ask Pouncestream."

"No!"

"Why not?"

"I want to talk to you alone."

"Why?"

"I don't want to say just yet."

"Okay, but I want to be back soon."

"We will. I promise."

"Okay then."

The two cats padded to the sun-lit clearing where Palecloud died. Sedgepaw sat next to Thrushpaw, their pelts barely touching.

"So, what did you want to say?" Thrushpaw asked.

"Well, I can't say it. It's embarrassing."

"Hey, I could get in trouble for this, so spit it out!"

"Alright! I- well, I kind of like you."

"As a friend?"

"No, not as a friend. Something more than a friend."

She cocked her head. "Do you mean, like a mate?"

"Well, yeah. I guess you could say that."

"But... we're just apprentices."

"Well, I wanted to ask something."

"What?"

"When we become warriors, will you be my mate?"

"But, I'm just an apprentice. I don't know."

"Look, I'll give you some time, but I need to know."

"Why do you need to know so soon?!"

"Because it'll be easier. On *both* of us."

"I see. Alright. I'll let you know at the next gathering."

"Thank you"

Sedgepaw got back on his feet. He trotted back towards camp, while Thrushpaw stayed for a moment.

How? How can I do this? I already have enough on my mind!

She stood up. She slowly walked back to camp, stopping every few minutes to hunt.

When she got back, she was greeted by a familiar face. It was Frostdapple, Sedgepaw's den mother.

"What were you and Sedgepaw talking about?" She asked, her voice soft.

Thrushpaw couldn't speak. She didn't want to tell the warrior what happened, so she had to lie. "He wanted to ask me about the gathering tomorrow." She said.

Frostdapple nodded. The brown dappled she-cat flicked her tail and padded away. "The first gathering is always the most important!" She called back to Thrushpaw.

Thrushpaw looked into the sky. It's normally blue colors were turning soft red and orange. The sun was going to sleep and the moon would come to replace it.

Thrushpaw trotted into the apprentice's den, where she saw Sedgepaw. He was talking to Onepaw.

She padded towards the cats. "Hi, Onepaw." She looked away embarrassed. "Hi, Sedgepaw."

Onepaw eyes darted from Thrushpaw to Sedgepaw a few times. "Hi, Thrushpaw," she said suspiciously. "Could we speak alone for a few minutes?"

"Sure. Why?"

"Uh, no reason. I just want to speak to my sister."

"Um, okay."

The two sisters padded over to the empty warriors' den. They sat down right next to each other.

"Okay, what's happening between you and Sedgepaw?" Onepaw asked.

"Nothing!"

"Don't lie to me. I saw you two. Something was going on."

Thrushpaw sighed. She carefully explained their talk in the woods. When she finished her sister's jaw dropped.

"He asked you to be his mate!?"

"Yeah. I told him I would answer him at the next gathering."

"But that's only tomorrow!"

"What? I thought it was at least a moon from now!"

"Well, if I were you, I would start thinking."

Onepaw padded out of the den, leaving Thrushpaw alone with her thoughts. Thrushpaw paced around the den. Thinking.

Oh no. Do I love him? Yes. No. Ugh!

She stayed in the den for a few minutes until she heard a loud yowl from the Shadowrock. It was Eelstar.

-All Went Black-

"All cats old enough to catch their own prey, meet under the Shadowrock for a clan meeting."

All the cats gathered under the rock. Thrushpaw walked up and sat next to Sedgepaw. He slowly put his tail around her.

"We are gathered here because of Oddfall. Oddfall, tell them," Eelstar commanded.

"We have smelled RiverClan in our territory!" the tom explained.

Thrushpaw snarled when Oddfall mentioned RiveClan. Her tabby pelt bristling. "Kill them all!" She murmured to herself.

Oddfall scanned the clearing filled with cats. "RiverClan has gone too far. After the gathering tomorrow, we will hit them where it matters. The core of their camp," He spat.

Cats yowled and hissed in agreement. Their pelts bristling with excitement.

Oddfall dipped his head and Eelstar began to speak. "While they are walking to their camp, we will be hidden behind the camp ourselves, and in the night, we will fight! We will steal! We will leave them defenseless!"

Oddfall whispered something into his ear. Eelstar nodded, and said, "The cats on the patrol will be, me, Shortshade, Pouncestream, Tumblecry, Roseblaze, Darkpaw, and Thrushpaw."

Russetcloud growled. "Thrushpaw's just six moons old!" She snapped.

Eelstar whipped his head over to her. "Yet she was made an apprentice," He hissed.

Sedgepaw looked over at Thrushpaw. He was scared for her, and suddenly regretted putting so much pressure on her. "Nevermind them," he whispered, "You'll do well, forget about what I told you, I can wait if you need to."

"Thank you," She mumbled.

"No, thank *you*."

****

Thrushpaw woke up at dawn. She and Pouncestream were getting up earlier than usual to practice fighting so she could actually do something rather than get killed without being able to defend herself.

Pouncestream took her to the exact clearing in which her father died - which *was* where all the apprentices trained - but Thrushpaw was still uncomfortable about it.

"Are you angry?" He snapped.

"What? Why would I be angry?" She asked Pouncestream.

"To fight your best you need to let all of your anger and fear and use it. The angrier you are the more you'll want to fight."

Thrushpaw felt herself being taken back to when her father got killed. The cat she saw claw him was Lostspring...she had attacked him, making him weak. Either she finished him or other cats helped her.

"It's her fault!" She snapped and leaped onto Pouncestream, mock fighting him.

The two cats continued training until the sun was going down and

then went back to camp.

"Oddfall and Moonspeck are the only two cats that aren't in the ambush that are going to the gathering," Eelstar meowed

"Well, Moonspeck is the medicine cat. He needs to stay behind to help the injured cats," Thrushpaw explained.

Eelstar growled. "Do not speak, apprentice." He snapped. "We must bring them to the gathering as every clan brings their medicine cat and deputy."

"Sorry," Thrushpaw said.

The cats got ready and were walking towards the island when Thrushpaw felt something jump on top of her and pull her away from the cats.

"Hey, who's there?" she said, trying to sound tough, but it sounds like a kit whimpering.

Then she saw Sedgepaw.

"Sedgepaw! Don't scare me like that!" Thrushpaw shouted.

"I'm sorry. But I need to know."

"Need to know what?"

"About the mate thing."

"Look.... I'm sorry, but I can't think about that."

"Please. I.... I love you Thrushpaw."

"And I love you too."

"Then say yes."

"I-"

Just then Graypaw yelled, "Thrushpaw! Thrushpaw! Come on!"

Thrushpaw went to sit with the other apprentices, Sedgepaw watching as she stood with them.

Nutstar yowled as a signal to start the gathering.

The mottled brown she-cat purred loudly. "Prey is running well in ThunderClan, as usual. We have three new its, Twilightkit, Cloudykit, and Sorrelkit. The mother is Thrushdawn and the father is Dawnthroat,"

Her eyes were sad now. "One of our elders, Snakewater, has left to hunt with StarClan. Wolfwatcher is sad because of this, but he knows she is in good paws. Now then, ShadowClan may speak."

Eelstar dipped his head. "ShadowClan is strong, and we have two new apprentices, Thrushpaw, and Graypaw,"

Cheers echoed through the island, even cats from other Clans joined in. Again, Sedgepaw yowled louder than ever.

"RiverClan ambushed and attacked us!" He hissed. "They killed Palecloud, five of them with one of him. And attacked him with a helpless kit watching,"

"The new deputy of ShadowClan is Oddfall," He said and dipped his head towards the fluffy white tom.

****

It was night now, and ShadowClan was lurking behind RiverClan camp. Thrushpaw gulped. She was scared to death. Darkpaw was beside her. "Don't be afraid of the dark," He whispered.

Don't be afraid of the dark. His words echoed in her ears.

Eelstar growled. "ShadowClan, attack!" He yowled.

Thrushpaw leaped into their camp with Darkpaw. The two kin feeling comfort beside one another.

Then Thrushpaw saw *her*.

The white and ginger she-cat that killed her father.

Lostspring.

Thrushpaw leaped right at her, hooking her claws into the she-cat's back.

"Off!" Lostspring yowled, and turned herself over, hitting Thrushpaw to the ground.

Then it went black.

-A Loner Called Lion-

Thrushpaw woke up in a dark den. She looked around and saw Weedfur, RiverClan's medicine cat, watching her.

"Hello, Thrushpaw. How do you feel?" he asked.

Thrushpaw had felt a lot of pain, but she wasn't going to tell a RiverClan cat. "I'm fine."

"Good."

"Weedfur, where's ShadowClan?"

"They're outside."

"Um... is it okay if I leave for a moment?"

"Okay."

Thrushpaw dashed out of Weedfur's den. She saw Darkpaw asleep, at least she hoped he was sleeping.

"Darkpaw? Darkpaw, it's me. Thrushpaw," she whispered.

"He's alive, Thrushpaw," a voice said. It was Lostspring.

"What do *you* want?"

"Look, I know we got off on the wrong paw. But-"

"Of course we did. You killed my father."

"No, Thrushpaw. I didn't. But I know who did."

"Who?"

"Eelstar."

She stepped back. "Why should I believe that?" Thrushpaw snapped.

"I was there,mouse-brain."

"Then the other cats would have seen him kill my father."

"Not if they were to busy fighting other cats."

Pain and confusion clouded Thrushpaw's eyes. Then she remembered Eelstar's dark words. It was all making sense now.

"I think I know the next step of his plan," Lostspring said.

"What is it?"

"To kill you and your littermates."

****

The cats walked back towards their territory. Eelstar was talking to Pouncestream on the way back. Thrushpaw heard Pouncestream say, "Did you see how Thrushpaw attacked Lostspring? I think she's ready to be a warrior."

Eelstar sharply turned his head towards Pouncestream. "What?! She isn't even a moon into her apprenticeship!"

Even though it seemed Eelstar was talking to Pouncestream, it was clear to Thrushpaw that his words were directed towards her.

When they got back to camp Thrushpaw saw Sedgepaw run towards her. "Thank goodness you're okay," he said brushing his pelt against hers.

Just as Sedgepaw finished speaking, Onepaw and Graypaw ran towards her.

"How was it?" Graypaw asked her.

"It was fine. A little scary, but fine. We won, that's for sure."

"I'm sure it was scary. Where is Darkpaw?" Onepaw asked.

"I think he went to the medicine den."

"Okay."

Onepaw left with Graypaw to see Darkpaw, leaving Thrushpaw alone with Sedgepaw.

"So... what happened while we were away?"

"Well, Russetcloud has a case of green-cough."

"Really? Is she okay?"

"It's pretty bad," he meowed. " But Moonspeck says she'll be fine."

"Are you sure? Shouldn't he just get catmint?"

Sedgepaw sighed. "She has a fever, and catmint isn't so common right now. It's not severe, though. She should be able to get back to her duties in a week or so."

"Good," She meowed.

Sedgepaw looked at her, his grey-blue eyes glittering. "Forget what I said at the gathering," he meowed.

"Why were you there, anyway? Eelstar didn't call your name."

He purred. "I just snuck out. He didn't mind, though. Eelstar's a nice cat. A stubborn cat, but a nice one."

He's anything but nice, mouse-brain. He killed my father.

Thrushpaw smiled. "Thanks,"

****

Thrushpaw saw Eelstar snickering. He was looking straight at her. She couldn't stay here, especially knowing Eelstar would kill her.

She had to get her kin.

But she couldn't. Something sparked in her. *Selfishness.* She didn't have time to save them, she only had time to save *her*.

When Eelstar stopped looking at her, she ran out of camp. She knew she shouldn't have left her kin to be killed, but she wanted to live, too.

Thrushpaw kept running until she saw a red twoleg nest. It was way bigger than usual and had some white stripes. She looked at it and walked up to it, her legs sore from running for so long.

"Hi, there, stranger," a cat mewed.

"Who are you?" Thrushpaw growled.

"My name is Lion."

"Are you a kittypet?"

"What's a kittypet? I'm not one!"

"Jeez. Sorry. It's just that I don't know you."

He purred "It's alright. What is your name?"

"Thrushpaw."

"How come you're out here all alone?"

"I left my Clan. It was too dangerous."

"I've heard of those. So you've decided to become a loner?"

Her pelt fell flat. "Yes."

"Well, you have certainly come to the right place. Follow me," the loner said as he padded towards the forest.

"Wait, don't you live there?" she asked, her tail pointing towards the twoleg nest.

"Oh, no. That's where Atticus lives," Lion explained.

"Who's Atticus?"

"He's just another loner. Come on, I'll show you where I live."

The two cats wandered around the forest until they reached a sun-lit clearing. They stopped at a dark cave.

"Why do you live in such a dark cave?" Thrushpaw asked.

"Trust me. It's way brighter inside."

They continued until they reached the end of the cave. Above them, there was a large hole in the top, with the sun shining through.

"Wow. And I thought the apprentice den was great."

"Yep. I think I chose the best place to live. And there is a lot of prey, so feel free to hunt."

Thrushpaw dropped into a hunting crouch and stalked a big, fat, juicy mouse. Then she remembered her first hunting exercise with Pouncestream.

Please don't let me fall on my face, she thought.

She continued stalking the mouse. Luckily, she returned with the mouse in her jaws and no bruise on her face.

-Coming Home to This-

Thrushpaw had spent three days in her life as a loner. She learned all about life as a loner. She felt she was finally free from all of the stress that ShadowClan gave. But she still felt something that she used to feel in ShadowClan. Love.

"Hi, Lion," Thrushpaw greeted her new friend.

"Hello, Thrushpaw. How did hunting go?"

"Great! We have enough to feed a Clan." She joked.

"Good. It's getting late. I'm going to sleep. Are you coming?"

"I will in a second."

"Okay then. Goodnight."

"Night."

Lion padded over to his nest. He circled it for a few moments and fell asleep. Thrushpaw walked outside and sat down.

Oh, StarClan, she thought, *will I ever be able to just walk away from this mess?*

Deep inside she knew that she would always have stress, but love was the hardest. She would choose Eelstar being away from her over love any day. Finally, she padded over to Lion and nestled up next to him.

Lion woke up, looked at Thrushpaw and smiled. He lay down again and fell asleep.

****

Thrushpaw woke early. It turned out Lion had woken up earlier because he wasn't in the sunlit den.

Thrushpaw sat down for a bit and finally went outside. The forest was bright and happy, unlike the one in ShadowClan. She purred, she liked a break from all the anxiety.

But she remembered her kin.

Graypaw, Onepaw, and Darkpaw didn't deserve *this*. She just had to hope Lostspring would tell them, too. But what if they wouldn't listen? Then it would be her fault this happened.

After hunting a bit and catching a mouse, Lion returned. His dark tortoiseshell pelt shone in the bright, early Sun. He had a rose in his mouth, it's thorns weren't piercing him, just adding to his grip.

"I found this when I was out there," he meowed after dropping the rose. "Wanted to give it to you."

Thrushpaw purred. "Thank you," She replied, her gray tabby pelt laying flat.

He dipped his head. "You've been acting a little weird," He meowed.

She nodded. "I sort of miss my old home,"

"Then why are you here?" He asked, curiously. Thrushpaw had told him about Clan life. Mainly about Sedgepaw, but she hadn't told him about Eelstar or his plan.

"Well...I can't." She meowed.

"Why not? You're a good hunter. I'm sure they'll let you back in ShadowClan," He said, kindly.

She sighed. "I never told them I was leaving." She looked away. "I abandoned them,"

"They don't know that," He told her.

They don't know...

"I guess I could go back but...you'd be alone.."

Lion shook his head. "If you want to go, then go." He said, his eyes soft and happy.

"Come with me," she meowed.

"I could, but-" He started to think, but he had no excuse. "Fine."

She smiled. "You're a good hunter, too." She meowed at him.

****

The two cats walked all the way to ShadowClan. When they arrived Sedgepaw quickly ran towards them.

"Thrushpaw! Where were you?" Sedgepaw asked. "Wait, who is this? Thrushpaw, did he hurt you?"

Thrushpaw rolled her eyes at him. "No, his name is Lion. He's a loner.

"You brought a loner here?"

"Yes. He wants to join ShadowClan."

"You'll need to see Eelstar, but he isn't very happy about what you did."

Her eyes widened. "Did he talk to my littermates?"

"Yeah, he's been questioning them all day."

"Where are they now?"

"In his den."

She ran into the den. When she got there she saw her littermates sobbing over a limp body. It was Russetcloud. She turned and saw Eelstar out of breath.

"You!" Thrushpaw growled at Eelstar. "You killed my parents!"

"Yes I did, and you're next."

He leaped onto Thrushpaw, but she shook him off. He charged again and she clawed his face. While Eelstar was catching his breath, Thrushpaw and her siblings ran outside. Eelstar chased them until they were cornered.

"Now I have you," he snarled.

As soon as he finished, Lion and Sedgepaw were in between them.

"You leave her alone," Lion snarled.

"Come on, follow me," Sedgepaw said to her siblings.

Lion charged at Eelstar and Thrushpaw clawed the leader's face once again. Eelstar tried to fight back, but he was hopeless. He fell to the ground.

"I give up, you stupid furballs," he said.

"Why?" Thrushpaw asked, sobbing. She raked Eelstar and heard him let out a yowl of pain. "Why?!"

"Thrushpaw, stop it. He's can't be in any condition to

confess," Lion said.

Thrushpaw buried her face into Lion's soft fur, still crying out in yowls. Suddenly, Sedgepaw walked in.

"Oh... I see," he said sadly.

"Sedgepaw, I-"

"No, I understand."

-The Black Cat With Orange-Yellow Eyes-

Thrushpaw stood there looking at Sedgepaw. She still loved him. She *knew* that. But Lion, he had let her live with him as a loner. He wasn't pushing her into an uncomfortable situation.

Now she just felt bad for Sedgepaw.

"Look, if Lion makes you happy, let him be your mate." Sedgepaw meowed, staring into Thrushpaw's soft amber eyes.

Thrushpaw looked out of the den. Moonspeck was treating Eelstar. She snorted. A cat like him deserved to bleed out and die, even if Thrushpaw didn't do much damage.

She looked at Lion, who's pale green eyes sparkled in the light. "You didn't tell me about that cat," He said, turning to Eelstar.

She sighed. "It never came up."

Thrushpaw lied her head on her mother's speckled brown pelt. "I wish I stayed instead of going to that stupid wild cat's territory," She whispered. "I could've saved you,"

Thrushpaw closed her eyes. Russetcloud didn't deserve this. She was the best mother an apprentice could ask for, and all Thrushpaw did was betray her and run away like a coward.

Lion looked at her. "I'm going to ask that cat...Oddfall is his name? If I can stay," he meowed and nudged Thrushpaw, trotting out of the den.

Onepaw and Graypaw limped into the den. "Hello," Onepaw said, sniffling.

"What did he do?! Where's Darkpaw?!" She said, terrified.

Onepaw shook her head. "Moonspeck says he may not survive the night...he says Darkpaw fought hard. He fought to save us, Thrushpaw. He fought to save *her*." She said, her muzzle turning to Russetcloud.

Graypaw started to speak. "Darkpaw isn't awake. Moonspeck says he has a concussion," she stuttered softly.

Thrushpaw looked up at the top of the den. "Why does everyone I love die, StarClan?!" She yowled. She dug her claws into the moss. "StarClan's abandoned all of us...all of us except that foxhearted Eelstar." She snapped.

Onepaw walked over to her sister, the light gray and white tabby nuzzling her sister. "All of this will make you stronger," She told her.

Graypaw joined them, the smoky gray she-cat was whimpering.

Thrushpaw whispered one last thing to her mother, something no-cat could hear, and slowly padded out of the den.

Graypaw told Thrushpaw he had a concussion from being slammed onto the side of the cave, Thrushpaw shivered at the thought. Being slammed into a stone wall sounded *extremely* painful.

Lion was talking to Oddfall. He was nodding and purring.

That must be a yes, she thought. *At least one thing's going right.*

Oddfall padded up to Shadowrock in place of Eelstar.

"All cats old enough to catch their own prey, meet under Shadowrock,"

Every cat but Eelstar, Darkpaw, and Moonspeck stood there, watching him.

"Lion has requested being an apprentice in ShadowClan. We need more warriors, so I've accepted him. Lion, from this day on, until you receive your warrior name, you shall be known as Lionpaw. *I* will be your mentor. Meeting dismissed,"

Oddfall and Lionpaw touched noses and padded away from each other. Thrushpaw smiled at him. "You're an apprentice now! Now you're with me!"

Lionpaw purred. "Now show me around the territory!"

She laughed. "*Oddfall's* supposed to do that."

"Well you can come with me!" He said, leaping up.

She sighed. She wished she could, but she wasn't going to celebrate while her mother was dead.

"Oh yeah, I'm so sorry." He mumbled. "We can go in a couple of days."

She smiled and padded away. Dewpath padded up to her slowly. "Your mother was an amazing cat," he said scratchily. His black pelt was shaking as well as his long legs. His scarred body was old and thin, like the build of WindClan and the scars of ShadowClan.

She looked at his weary eyes. They were a orangy-yellow color. She had seen Dewpath before, but barely ever. Just once. She had seen him when he was only an old warrior, and was sneeking out with Eelstar when she was only a moon old.

So Dewpath was a very old warrior when he retired.

"She was..." Thrushpaw said, quietly.

Dewpath looked at her, his muzzle was gray with age, and his whiskers were bent.

"I remember when she was just a kit," He said, wheezing.

"What was she like?" Thrushpaw asked, sitting down.

He laughed. "She was bold. Always climbing trees and playing with your father, Palecloud."

"Tell me more." She demanded.

He lay down, the setting sun barely shining on his face. "She annoyed Eelstar, who was at the time named Eelpaw, and she continued when she was an apprentice and his name was Eeljaw."

She annoyed him? How? "She annoyed him?" She asked.

"Yes. And embarrassed him. She would beat him in fights and hurt him all the time. Guess it finally got to him..."

-Dark Visions of Blood-

The next day Thrushpaw visited the medicine den. Moonspeck was looking over Eelstar, checking for more bites and scratches.

"Hello, Thrushpaw," he welcomed. "Don't worry, he's asleep," he said, pointing to Eelstar.

"I don't care about that traitor," Thrushpaw snarled. "I'm here for Darkpaw."

"He's not here. He's with Russetcloud."

"Why? He has a concussion."

"He *did.* But he should be fine."

"Graypaw said that -"

"Graypaw? Oh please, she was just exaggerating."

"I'm going to see Darkpaw, come and get me once that traitor wakes up," she said, pointing at Eelstar.

"As you wish."

Thrushpaw padded over to her mother's burial place. She saw Darkpaw giving his last respects to her. "I'm so sorry. I should've fought harder," he whispered to his mother.

"Hi, Darkpaw."

"Hi."

"How are you feeling?"

"Physically, I'm alright. Emotionally, that's a different story."

"Look, fought your hardest. Mother would be proud of you."

"No, she wouldn't. I let her die."

Thrushpaw looked at her paws. "You know, I felt the same way when he killed dad."

"Who's 'he'? Lostspring is a she-cat."

"Lostspring isn't the one who killed him."

"Then who did?"

"Eelstar."

Darkpaw shook his head trying to get rid of the horrid thought. "No way. Dad died in battle against RiverClan."

"He died in that dumb battle, but those RiverClan mouse brains aren't what killed him."

"But why?" He asked.

"I don't know. Dewpath said that mother used to annoy Eelstar, and that he just got sick of it - but I doubt that he killed the mother for that reason. Palecloud? That is a complete mystery."

Just as she finished, Moonspeck told them that Eelstar was awake. The three cats padded over to the den. Before they walked in Moonspeck said, "I have to go with Oddfall to the Moontree. You two will have to tell someone else if something happens." Then he walked away.

The two cats walked in and saw Eelstar grooming his ruffled fur. "What do *you* want, mouse-brain?" he asked.

"We want answers, *Eeljaw,*" Thrushpaw growled.

"How dare you! I am your leader."

It was Darkpaw who spoke. "No you're not, Oddfall is. And we are

supposed to call you Eeljaw."

"Now, why did you kill my parents?" Thrushpaw demanded.

"Are you going to leave me in peace if I tell?" Eeljaw asked.

"Maybe."

"Fine. I did it-"

His words came to an end as a vision appeared in front of Thrushpaw. She saw a battle. She realized where she was. It was the battle of BloodClan.

She heard of stories where all of the Clans fought BloodClan. Scourge was the leader of BloodClan. She saw a famous cat named Firestar fighting a cat. It was Scourge.

But when she looked at the BloodClan cat, it wasn't his face she saw. It was Eeljaw's. Just then, everything turned black.

Suddenly a cat appeared. It was Russetcloud. Thrushpaw wanted to greet her mother, but she couldn't speak.

"Thrushpaw, beware. The battle is far from over," her mother warned. "For the cat shares blood with a defeated clan."

In a second she was back where she was. She heard Darkpaw ask, "Thrushpaw? Are you okay? Do you need to see a medicine cat?"

"No, but I do need to see Oddfall."

****

As soon as Oddfall, now named Oddstar, came back from the Moontree with Moonspeck, Thrushpaw padded over to him. "Oddstar, I need to talk to you," she said, sounding as serious as an apprentice can sound.

"What is it?" Oddstar asked.

"I don't want anybody else to hear it."

"That is nearly impossible out here. Come, follow me to my new den."

The two cats walked side by side. Thrushpaw saw other cats cast confused glances in their direction.

Once they were in the den they sat down. "Alright. What happened?"

"I had a vision. A strange one."

"That is odd. Leader and medicine cats have visions, not ordinary apprentices."

She yawned and continued her story. "I saw the battle of BloodClan. I saw Scourge, but it wasn't his face I saw. I saw Eelstar's."

"Eeljaw," he corrected. "But that is strange. Is there more?"

"Yes. I saw my mother. And she said something."

"What did she say?"

"Thrushpaw, beware. The battle is far from over. For the cat shares blood with a defeated clan."

This is the shortest chap of the whole book so far...*oof*. I ended it on an okay note, but I could've done better. Ending this book on chap 25, and then...another book! And maybe even more!

Best writings,

Storm

❤

-The Lion and the Squirrel-

Thrushpaw padded over to her nest. She thought about what Oddstar said.

"We will find out what it means in time," he said. "But for now listen for more clues."

Thrushpaw didn't want to wait. She wanted to find out what it meant before it was too late. But what could she do? Oddstar told her to wait.

She knew what to do. She would ask Moonspeck. He was almost as old as the elders, so he probably was alive when the battle of BloodClan happened. And he knew a lot about StarClan.

She padded over to his den. "Moonspeck?" Thrushpaw called.

"Hello, Thrushpaw."

"Hey Moonspeck, were you alive when BloodClan tried to take over?"

"Seriously, Thrushpaw? No, that was the time of Firestar. My mother wasn't even born during that time."

She looked at the ground. "Oh."

"What?"

"I was hoping to know about Scourge."

"Is that all? I don't need to be alive during that time to tell you about him."

Her eyes brightened. "Really?"

"Sure. What do you want to know?"

"Who were Scourge's relatives?"

Moonspeck hesitated. "Don't know much. Heard Firestar was his half-brother, though." He meowed.

It doesn't help at all, She thought. *Unless Eeljaw is related to Firestar.* She added to herself.

The fluffy gray tabby she-cat nodded. "Thanks," She meowed and padded away.

She couldn't go to any cat else for advice. And Lionpaw barely knew the rules of Clans, so he wouldn't be any help. But as she saw Lionpaw talking to Sedgepaw, she became happier.

The two toms were laughing together. *Sedgepaw forgave me,* She thought. But for some reason, the fact that he moved on so fast hurt her. She didn't know why she should be happy for Sedgepaw. He seemed happy, and now they could just be friends. Lately, she saw Sedgepaw hanging around Onepaw. It hurt her, she knew it shouldn't, but it did. She smiled at the two as Lionpaw and Sedgepaw turned their heads towards her.

"Hey, Thrushpaw," Sedgepaw said purring.

She dipped her head. "Hey, Sedgepaw. Hey Lionpaw."

Lionpaw smiled, his tortoiseshell pelt looked smooth and silky, even though he had been playing around with Sedgepaw.

"So, wanna go hunting? I thought that you all, me, and Graypaw could go." Thrushpaw offered.

Sedgepaw and Lionpaw nodded. "Can Onepaw come, too?" Sedgepaw asked.

I can't believe he just said that. She thought. But the she-cat was smart enough to keep her thoughts to herself and nodded.

"Shouldn't you, Darkpaw, and Onepaw get your warrior names soon?" Thrushpaw asked.

Sedgepaw nodded. "I know I haven't been here long, but we *are* ten moons now. If our ceremony is like your apprentice ceremony was, then we should get it next moon."

Thrushpaw agreed with him, but now that Oddstar was leader, she highly doubted they would be made warriors early.

Onepaw was walking through the camp when Sedgepaw yowled to her, "We're going hunting, come with us!" He said, happily.

Onepaw nodded, her only ear shaking. Graypaw padded up to them, overhearing what Sedgepaw had said. "Can I come, too?" She asked.

Thrushpaw nodded and nudged her sister. "I wish Darkpaw could come, but the fight-" She stopped, remembering her now-dead mother and injured brother. She never thought all of what she loved would disappear. All she had now were her siblings and friends. And the bad thing, *Eelstar*. Who could forgive a monster like him who killed her parents and tried to kill innocent apprentices? All she knew was that Russetcloud had annoyed and embarrassed him, but only a bit. But Palecloud? What happened with Palecloud and Eelstar?

She shook the thought off. Now was a time for spending time with friends and family, and providing for her Clan.

The group walked into the forest happily. For the first time in moons, Thrushpaw felt at peace with herself and her surroundings. Lionpaw got into a hunting crouch. "I smell squirrel," he whispered. The tom saw the gray puff on a tree and carefully stocked over to it, finally, he leaped straight up and hooked his claws into the squirrel. Usually, cats would snap the prey's necks, but Lionpaw just clawed it into a bloody mess. He leaped back down, smiling. He bent down with his mouth open. "No!" Thrushpaw said. He whipped his head around. "Oh yeah. Sorry. The Clan must eat first," He meowed. "Thank you StarClan for this prey," he added.

Thrushpaw was happy, Lionpaw was turning into a noble Clan cat. He even thanked StarClan for the squirrel. "You're doing great," Thrushpaw meowed, smiling.

Shorter chap again, sorry guys. I have BIG plans for this book. So watch out.

Best writings,

Storm

-Warriors Here-

When the cats returned to their camp, they saw Oddstar up on the Shadowrock. They had just begun the Clan meeting.

"Alright, I have called a Clan meeting to discuss the matter of Eeljaw," the leader meowed.

Cats started yelling.

"Kill him!"

"Drown him."

"Exile him!"

"Hey!" Oddstar shouted. "We will not kill him. I will not have this Clan be the home of murderous cats!"

Oddstar's last words were directed towards Eeljaw. The old leader sneered. But Oddstar continued. "You have killed a clanmate, and injured four apprentices," he snapped. "In *my* Clan, there is no place for murder. So if we see you on our territory again, even once..." he growled. "Oh Eeljaw, StarClan help you if that happens!" He yowled

Eeljaw growled and took a step back, lowering himself to the ground. He bared his jaws, his sharp yellow eyes slit. "I want Thrushpaw, Pouncestream, and Tumblecry to escort him out. But first..."

Cats were confused. What did he need to say? "Spit it out!" Birchsong yowled.

He sighed. "I want Onepaw, Darkpaw, and Sedgepaw to take their warrior assessments. ShadowClan needs more warriors, and with the cold leaf-bare coming, we'll need more food. But most importantly, we need a deputy."

Thrushpaw had forgotten about a new deputy since her mother had been killed. Who would it be?

"I say these words before StarClan, that the spirits of our ancestors may hear and approve my choice."

"The new deputy will be Frostdapple!" He yowled.

The brown dappled she-cat gasped and dipped her head. "I will do my best to serve my Clan," She meowed.

Cats were happy. Thrushpaw walked up to her friends. "Wow, you must be so excited!" she said.

They nodded. "We can't believe we were offered to be warriors! My assessment will be awesome!" Onepaw said.

Thrushpaw was confused. "Offered? You have to be warriors. You're training to be one, anyway."

She smiled. "Well, we still had two moons of training left! And besides, we still have to complete our warrior assessment and do it *well*. It's not easy, Thrushpaw."

Thrushpaw sighed. She hadn't thought of that. *I wish I was a warrior...*She thought. *I mean, I deserve it. I fought Eelstar* and *survived on my own as a loner. All Onepaw does is sit around and talk to friends.*

Thrushpaw shook the thought away and smiled at her sister, who walked away as her mentor Frostdapple called her over.

Onepaw's P.O.V

Onepaw was ready for this. She had lived for ten moons. *I've got this...*she thought and shuffled her paws. Frostdapple smiled at her and dipped her head, "You may begin," She meowed, and padded away into the forest.

Onepaw looked around. Where did Frostdapple go? No green eyes were in the bushes, no nothing. And her scent was hidden as well. She quietly padded around, tasting the air. Her long, brown tail

swayed back and forth over the leaves as she walked. She heard chirps.

Birds! I have a great leap! She looked around and saw a small pheasant pecking at the grass. *The bird's just looking for food, but ShadowClan's the one that will be eating well tonight!*

Onepaw crept forward and pounced over, the pheasant flying into the air. While it was, she leaped up, sinking her claws into its wings and pulling it down.

Onepaw smiled and buried the pheasant happily. She padded around again, her one ear up and alert. The she-cat heard a snap. She whipped around and saw a small, fat squirrel chewing on an acorn. Onepaw crept forward and when she was close enough, she easily swiped her paw over the creature, bit its neck, and the squirrel was done for.

"Well done!" Frostdapple praised her. Onepaw licked her chest in embarrassment.

"Did I pass?" She asked, softly.

Frostdapple nodded, and Onepaw ran up to her pressing her head into her chest. "You're the best mentor ever...no wonder you got picked as deputy!" She purred.

Frostdapple dipped her head. "If I knew what your warrior name was, I wouldn't call you Onepaw, but-"

A twig snapped and a menacing laugh was heard. Yellow eyes were seen.

"Eel-"

Sorry for the late and short update...yikes. I'm trying to do more cliffhangers. Do you like the P.O.V switch? I really enjoyed writing it, now I know my own oc better, lol.

Anyway, expect chap 13 soon! Best writings!

-StandingInTheStorm

-The Naming-

Onepaw's P.O.V

The white tom snickered, his white teeth glistening

"You were exiled!" Frostdapple snapped. "Get out of ShadowClan territory, *now*!"

He growled. "Do you think I care? It's a shame Odd*fall* is the leader."

"His name is Oddstar!" Frostdapple hissed, her silver and brown dappled fur bristling.

Eeljaw unsheathed his claws. "As long as I live, *I* will be your leader. ShadowClan is *mine*!" He yowled, and leaped over to Frostdapple, pinning her down. Onepaw stepped back, not knowing what to do. And then she remembered.

Leap and hold...Frostdapple taught me that one...!

Onepaw ducked down and went behind Eeljaw, who didn't see her coming. She leaped onto him, digging her claws into his back. He jumped up and then rolled over, his back pushing Onepaw to the ground. She wheezed, knowing that this countermove was dangerous.

Frostdapple growled. "Don't you touch my apprentice, piece of crowfood!" She scowled and leaped over to him, slashing his face with her claws, temporarily blinding him with blood.

A group of WindClan cats padded over to the border, gasping. "We heard your yowls!" Brightleap meowed and went over to Eeljaw. "What happened?" He asked. "No time to explain! Attack him!"

The WindClan cats obeyed, slashing and clawing the tom. "He passed out," Deermask meowed. "I'll drag him to the Two-Leg Place,

you'll need to get to Moonspeck,"

She dipped her head, and Onepaw and Frostdapple limped away. Onepaw looked around and saw a pair of blue eyes staring straight at her through some brush. "Who's there?!" She growled. Frostdapple backed up, she had seen the eyes as well.

Suddenly, a pure black she-cat slowly padded out of the bushes. Her frame was frail and her body was scared. "Who are you?" Onepaw growled.

The black she-cat whimpered. "I-I'm Eeljaw's sister...well I heard he's Eelstar now...but you called him Eeljaw..." She whimpered.

"Why aren't you in ShadowClan?" Frostdapple asked.

"He...he...he made me leave. I saw him kill a cat, so he tried to kill *me*! I ran till I couldn't anymore, and now I'm here..." She wailed.

Frostdapple nudged her. "What's your name?"

"I'm Ferretgaze...no time to tell more, go get Moonspeck, he's quite good with healing...well, I knew when I was an apprentice."

"Which cat did you see him kill?" Onepaw asked.

"The old medicine cat...but worse...a few moons ago, I saw him kill Palecloud."

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"She did!?" Thrushpaw exclaimed. "This is great!"

Onepaw was confused. How was this great news? "How is anything about this 'good news'?"

"Because, she might know a little more on *why* Eeljaw killed dad," Thrushpaw sighed. "I thought that was our goal here."

"I never said it wasn't *your* goal. But I know why he killed dad already."

"Yeah? Why?"

"Come on, we've all seen Eeljaw. He's just mean!"

Thrushpaw rolled her eyes. "I don't think being mean is the answer. I mean, Dewpath was kinda mean, but he never murdered a bunch of cats."

Thrushpaw had a point. Well, she had two. One, being mean isn't an excuse to kill people. Two, they did need to know more about the mysterious murder. But Onepaw couldn't just sit around and listen to why Eeljaw is a killer. Besides, she had to get her warrior name.

"Alright, you can go find out more while I get my warrior name."

Thrushpaw nodded. "Alright, I'll go ask while you grow up."

Oddstar was talking to Frostdapple, who then nodded. Oddstar padded up to Shadowrock. "All cats old enough to catch their prey, meet under Shadowrock for a Clan meeting!" He yowled.

Cats gathered under Shadowrock, eager to figure out what was happening. "Today we shall make three apprentices warriors. Onepaw, please step forward."

Onepaw was excited, the silver she-cat hopped up.

Oddstar smiled. "I, Oddstar, leader of ShadowClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice. She has trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend them to you as a warrior in their turn."

Oddstar continued. "Onepaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend this Clan, even at the cost of your life?"

She purred. "I do."

"Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior name. Onepaw, from this moment you will be known as Oneear. StarClan honors your intelligence and kindness, and we welcome you as a full warrior of ShadowClan."

Oneear dipped her head respectfully and smiled.

"Darkpaw, please step forward."

The dark gray tom trotted up to Oddstar.

"I, Oddstar, leader of ShadowClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice. He has trained amazingly to understand the ways of your honorable code, and I commend them to you as a warrior in their turn."

"Darkpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend this Clan, even at the cost of your life?"

Darkpaw dipped his head. "Oddstar, you know I do."

"Then by the will of StarClan, I give you your warrior name. Darkpaw, from now on you will be known as Darkfur. StarClan honors your pride and strength, and we welcome you as a full warrior of ShadowClan."

He smiled. "Finally, we have Sedgepaw. Sedgepaw, please come here," Sedgepaw padded over quickly.

"I call upon my ancestors to look down on Sedgepaw. He has trained with dedication to understand the ways of your code, and I commend them to you as a warrior in return."

Sedgepaw gave his chest a few licks of embarrassment.

"Sedgepaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend ShadowClan, even at the cost of your life?"

"I do!" He meowed, happily.

"Then by the powers of StarClan, I will give you your warrior name. Sedgepaw, you will now be known as Sedgeleaf. StarClan honors your dedication and speed, and the Clan welcomes you as a full member of ShadowClan."

This is a really long chap compared to what I've written lately, so I hope you enjoyed it!

Best writings,

-StandingInTheStorm

-Surprise-

Thrushpaw's P.O.V

Thrushpaw smiled at her sister and brother, who we're talking to 'fellow warriors', now. Thrushpaw lied down. She hadn't been able to rest in quite a while, so she was very happy that she could now.

Being only a few moons younger than Oneear and Darkfur, she wondered why she hadn't been made a warrior. *Not long, now.* She thought to herself.

Lionpaw walked over to her, his genuine smile pleasing her. "Hi," the tortoiseshell tom meowed softly.

She dipped her head. "Hey." Lionpaw lied down beside her, waving his tail impatiently. "Not long till you are a warrior."

Thrushpaw purred. "You'll be a warrior, too."

He shook his head. "Still need six more moons, you know. You'll have kits by the time I get my warrior name,"

She purred. *Funny he thinks that...*

Pouncestream yowled out to her. "Thrushpaw, training session with Lionpaw!" The black tabby walked away.

Thrushpaw nudged him and leaped away, Lionpaw bounding after her. Clawpaw walked up to them. "Hi!" She meowed. "I was wondering if I could-"

"No time for talking! I have training!" Thrushpaw meowed. Clawpaw frowned, sitting down. The brown tabby she-cat just wanted to make a friend.

Pouncestream went into a sandy pit. "Oddstar couldn't come. Moonspeck says he has a cold."

Lionpaw nodded. "Are we fighting?" He asked. Pouncestream nodded.

"We'll do a mock ambush," He meowed. "Now, you two be ready, I will randomly ambush you."

The two apprentices nodded and padded around the sandpit. After a few minutes, three cats jumped out and 'attacked' them.

"I thought it was supposed to be just you!" She meowed to Pouncestream.

"It's an ambush! You shouldn't know!"

Lionpaw and Thrushpaw got back-to-back, both batting at the warriors, defending one another. Birchsong leaped over onto them, tumbling and thrashing around. Lionpaw thrashed back, twisting and turning as the red and white tabby rolled.

Thrushpaw batted at Birchsong, attempting to get her off of Lionpaw. Pouncestream smiled. "You fought well. Going back-to-back with another cat is a great way to fight off a large group of cats," he meowed.

Thrushpaw purred. It wasn't very often that she was complimented.

She smiled over at Lionpaw, who licked his chest in embarrassment. His dark tortoiseshell fur was shining. *Yes.* She thought. *He's happy here.*

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Thrushpaw sat in the apprentices' den, bored. She had seen Oneear, Sedgeleaf, and Darkfur spending time with one another. But now, Oneear was over with Oddstar. *Why would she be wit Oddstar? He's probably busy...*

Oneear was saying something, Oddstar looking surprised, but nodding. *What's wrong?* Thrushpaw thought.

Oneear smiled and looked over at Sedgeleaf, who smiled back. She padded away into the nursery.

Wait...no...this can't mean...

Thrushpaw bounded after her. "Oneear! Why are you in the nursery?"

Oneear gulped. "I...umm...I'm expecting Sedgeleaf's kits in a few moons...Moonspeck told me..."

Thrushpaw gasped. "But you're only ten moons old!"

She shook her head. "Eleven, now."

Thrushpaw sighed. "Well, how many?"

She shrugged. "Moonspeck says it will be a larger litter...like three or four kits."

"Wow," Thrushpaw meowed. "I'm going to have kin younger than me, for once. Are you telling Darkfur and Graypaw?"

She sighed. "Not yet...er... I didn't plan on telling you yet. Only Sedgeleaf and Oddstar. Well, you, too."

Thrushpaw smiled. "Well, I'm happy you're happy."

Oneear purred. "Thanks. You like any-cat?"

She blushed and looked at Lionpaw as he walked past the nursery. "Maybe one..." She meowed.

Oneear purred happily. "Let me guess...Lionpaw? He's sorta your only option...unless you like an older cat?"

"Maybe...not about the older cat, though. About Lionpaw."

She lied down. "Maybe you'll have a mate one day, and be happy. You'll expect kits, like Sedgeleaf and I. I'll be there for that."

Thrushpaw smiled. "Need any fresh-kill?" She meowed, softly.

Oneear nodded. "If I don't get fat from carrying kits, it'll be from eating so much, but I am hungry so, sure!"

Thrushpaw bounced out of the den happily. She grabbed a fat mouse in her jaws. *Oneear loves mice...or maybe she doesn't anymore. Hopefully, this doesn't disappoint her.*

Thrushpaw dropped it in front of Oneear. "Thanks! Mice, my favorite!" She said and dug into the mouse. *At least that hasn't changed...* Thrushpaw thought, keeping it to herself.

Sorry for the late update. This chap was shorter than usual, but I was in a rush.

Best writings!

-**StandingInTheStorm**

-Book 2, Extraordinary!-

Hey, all! Extraordinary is being started rn! I'm so excited, too! I can't wait for the book to come out! It's based around Oneear's kit, Oakkit, also, Thrushpaw and Lionpaw are now warriors in book 2!!